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THESE DAYS:**Dodd's Answer —  
Plan to Free Cuba**

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THE ANSWER of Senator Tom Dodd (D.-Conn.) to Senator Fulbright's assertion that Fidel Castro should be accepted as a disagreeable but bearable nuisance has been to send a copy of the newly issued pamphlet titled "Terror and Resistance in Communist Cuba" to every one of his senatorial colleagues.

The pamphlet, the first in a series projected by the knowledgeable Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba, is the product of Paul Bethel, who was press attache at the U.S. Embassy in Havana from 1958 to 1961. It is in every respect a shocker. It has convinced Dodd that there is going to be an uprising against the Castro regime sooner rather than later, and that when the explosion does come, the attitude of the U.S. may be the make-or-break factor.



The Bethel material, drawn from new refugee sources and a careful monitoring of Castroite radio communications inside Cuba, makes it plain that virtually nothing is done today in Fidel's Red paradise without the use of extreme compulsion. Resistance calls forth terror, but the terror only compounds the resistance. Peasants—the guajiros—are commanded to cut the sugar cane, but the Fidelista command corps has not been able to keep the guajiro from sabotaging the cutting. The fields burn, the grinding equipment in the mills breaks down. And, as a last resort, the Castroites turn to a universal military draft to get the crops in.

In putting a copy of the Bethel pamphlet on every senator's desk, Dodd is serving notice that Fulbright does not speak for the Democratic Party in the Senate. The pamphlet, in Dodd's opinion, effectively combats the fallacy that the Castro regime can be made stable. The truth is that its seeming solidity is based on Russian support—but such support is extremely vulnerable when it must operate over thousands of miles of ocean.

UPRISINGS, according to Bethel, are possible against a Communist terror regime, as has been proved in Hungary, Poland, East Germany and Tibet. Whether they can succeed is a function of distance. The Hungarian anti-Communist revolution, for one, would have succeeded if Khrushchev had not moved in the Red army with 5,000 tanks. It would be impossible to move such a force into Red Cuba in the event of an uprising.

The irony, according to Dodd and Bethel, is that resistance inside Cuba is increasing at a time when the U.S. State Department believes living conditions in Cuba have improved. In Miami, the Cuban refugees have given up hope that this country intends to do anything to help them return to their homeland.

Of course, Castro is "bearable" for the time being. So is cancer in its early stages. It is only when metastasis occurs, with the disease jumping to distant parts of the anatomy, that cancer becomes something more than a nuisance. Castroism is "bearable" only so long as it can be prevented from leaping to Chile or Brazil.

The Dodd retort to the Fulbright attitude would shape itself into a five-point program reminiscent of U.S. behavior in the 1890's, when our policy was to encourage the Cuban rebellion against Spain. One, Washington would withdraw its restrictions on Cuban anti-Communist Freedom Fighters. Two, we would commit ourselves publicly to a declaration that Cuba must be freed. Three, we would let the anti-Castro exiles in Central America purchase arms. Four, we would reaffirm the Monroe Doctrine. And five, we would encourage the creation of a Legion of Exiles from all Communist countries to take the part of the anti-Castroites.

Will we do any of this in time? Or will the explosion predicted by Bethel for Cuba be permitted to waste itself?